



The President's Daily Brief

July 8, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Athens

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Cyprus. (Page 2)

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The Soviet

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Indian Ocean

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The politically tense atmosphere in Addis Ababa appears to be easing. (Page 3)

The French

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TURKEY-GREECE

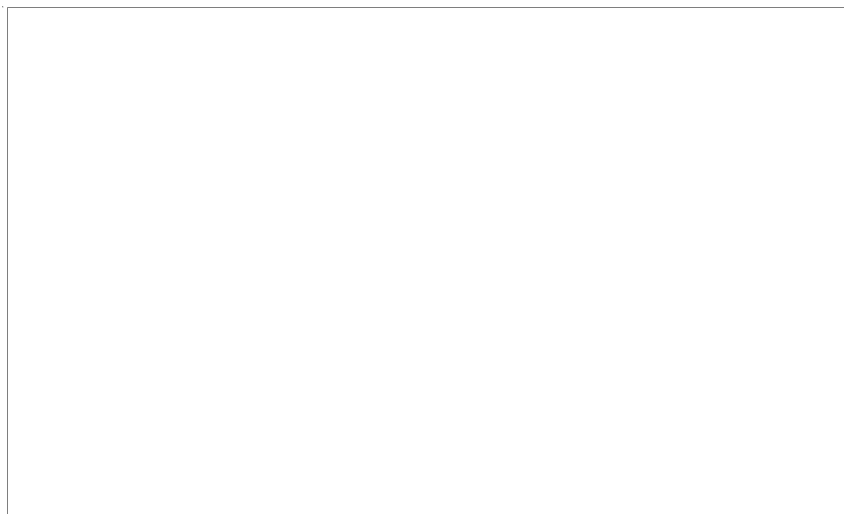
NATO Secretary General Luns will make a fresh offer this week to mediate the dispute between Athens and Ankara over rights to the Aegean seabed. Luns will propose to Greek and Turkish NATO representatives that the two countries set up joint companies to exploit the mineral resources of the Aegean and work out arrangements concerning each nation's participation later. He hopes his suggestion will enable the Greeks to enter negotiations, perhaps in a NATO forum, and provide a way around Greek objections to setting up new machinery for such talks.

The Turks appear to have convinced Luns that they are eager to work out some kind of compromise, in part because they are worried about recent arms purchases by Greece. Some Greek officials--particularly in the foreign ministry--seem to favor a flexible approach to the problem, but they are not calling the shots. This was made clear, for example, by the behavior of Greek officials conducting recent talks with Turkish representatives in Ottawa and Brussels. The Greeks had no authority to negotiate substantive issues; they had to check back regularly with the military leaders in Athens.

The ruling junta is showing no sign of give. Greek leaders continue to insist that earlier agreements give Athens extensive rights in the Aegean and there is nothing to negotiate. Frustration over this inflexible stance may have been what prompted the resignation last week of two key foreign ministry officials.

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GREECE-CYPRUS



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NOTES

USSR - Indian Ocean: The Soviet helicopter carrier Leningrad, accompanied by a destroyer and an oiler, rounded the Cape of Good Hope over the weekend and is now in the Indian Ocean. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The Leningrad probably will not, however, reach any Somali port before Soviet President Podgorny completes his current visit to Somalia. The carrier is expected to participate in Soviet mine-clearing operations this month in the Strait of Gubal at the southern end of the Gulf of Suez.

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Ethiopia: The politically tense atmosphere in Addis Ababa appears to be easing in the wake of the Emperor's recent agreement to military supervision of the government and to acceleration of constitutional changes. The military has eased the ban on travel, permitting the foreign minister, who negotiated the agreement, to visit Zaire, and soldiers, who have been guarding banks, have been withdrawn. Meanwhile, six more top officials charged with corruption have surrendered to military arrest.

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France: [REDACTED]

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